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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DOCKET

01 SEP 25 AM 11:57

FMCSA-01-9800-38

September 13, 2001

Docket Management Facility
U.S. Department of Transportation
Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Staff of Transportation,

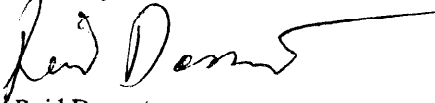
I am writing this letter on behalf of myself and other diabetics through out the country concerning the blanket ban that prevents diabetics from obtaining a Commercial Drivers License. This blanket ban is unfair and should be replaced with a fair system of individual evaluation.

I have read the proposed plan in that a driver must have been driving a commercial vehicle for the prior three years while using insulin in order to apply for CDL's. This 'three year plan' will make any good changes in the policy useless to me and the largest majority of the diabetics who are truly qualified to drive commercial vehicles. In my opinion, individual evaluation through and exemption program not including the three-year rule would allow diabetics to be treated somewhat fair. The current blanket ban in my opinion is discrimination and has hurt all people with diabetes by allowing the Federal Government to treat us as if we cannot function normally in American society.

I am 32 years old and have been a diet and medication controlled diabetic for 4 years. I am also a husband and a father and I am depended upon to provide for my family. I work for Mississippi Power Company where I am a lineman, a job that requires me to have a CDL. I have done powerline work for 12 years its my job, its my career, its how I make a living.

I am a third generation diabetic it runs in my family so diabetes is nothing new to me. I know first hand that the millions of dollars spent each year on diabetes research has made it possible for diabetics to live practically normal lives. I have fought hard the last 4 years to stay off of insulin but I know I will soon need it to live. The fear and anxiety that I go through daily because of this blanket ban and the thought of losing my job is so unnecessary and so unfair. I know so many insulin dependent diabetics that live normal lives by staying in control of their glucose levels. You can help me and thousands of others like me by removing this unfair blanket ban and allowing individual evaluation but not including the three-year rule.

Sincerely,


Reid Dossett